



# LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL

1809 - 2009



**Abraham Lincoln: The Man**  
“Standing Lincoln” 1884-87

Lincoln Park, Chicago, Illinois

*Lincoln stood tall in the carriage,  
his dark uncovered head bent in  
contemplative acknowledgment of  
the waiting people.*

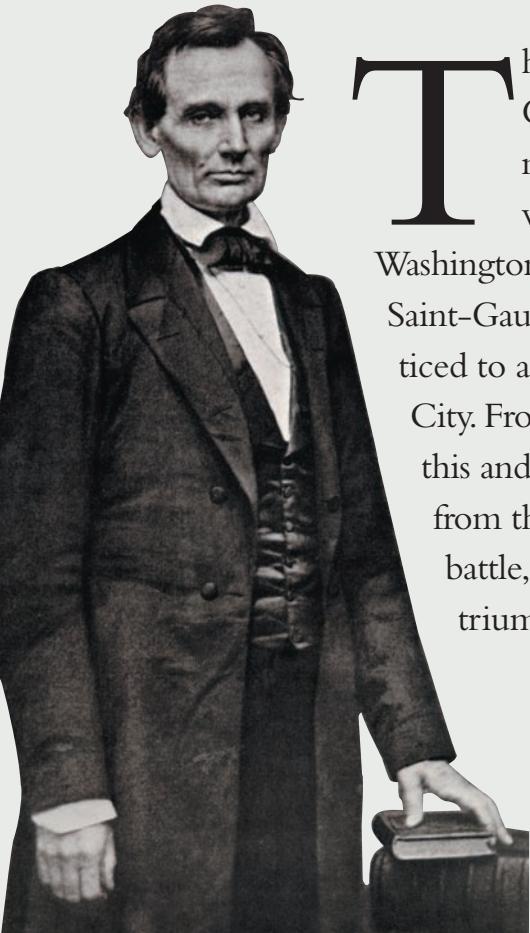
—Augustus Saint-Gaudens



*Augustus at his cameo lathe*

**T**hus the young Augustus Saint-Gaudens recorded his first memory of Abraham Lincoln who was on his way to Washington for his first inauguration. Saint-Gaudens was a teenager, apprenticed to a cameo cutter in New York City. From his window, he witnessed this and other events of the Civil War, from the troops marching off to battle, the draft riots, and parades for triumphant generals.

Saint-Gaudens was a great admirer of Lincoln and was to create two monuments to the president.



*Abraham Lincoln without a beard, as Saint-Gaudens first saw him.*

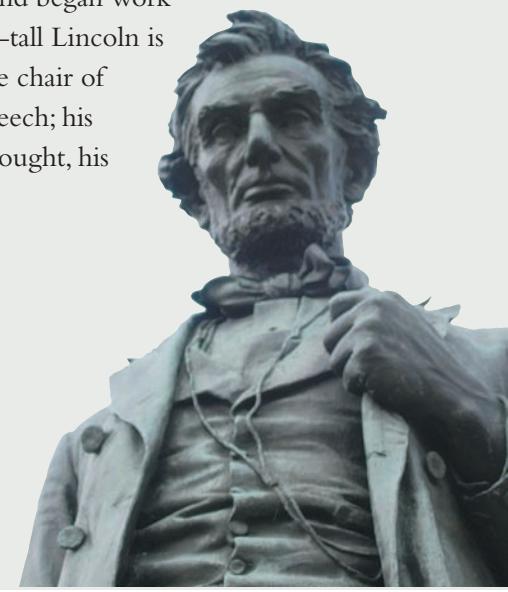
*Then came the news of Lincoln's assassination.  
I recall father and mother weeping, as he read of it  
to us . . . I saw Lincoln lying in state in the City  
Hall, and I went back to the end of the line to look  
at him again. This completed my vision of the big  
man, though the funeral . . . deepened the profound  
solemnity of my impression.*

—Augustus Saint-Gaudens

Augustus had some other connections to Lincoln. He was good friends with John Hay, Lincoln's personal secretary. Hay had a summer home in nearby Newbury, New Hampshire. In 1902, Saint-Gaudens served on the MacMillan Commission which was charged with redesign and beautification of the Mall in Washington, D.C. It was this commission that chose the site for the Lincoln Memorial.

#### THE STANDING LINCOLN

The figure known as the "Standing Lincoln" was the first of Saint-Gaudens' statues of Lincoln. He received the commission for this monument in 1884 and began work in earnest the following year. The 12-foot-tall Lincoln is posed as though having just risen from the chair of state behind him. He is about to give a speech; his head slightly bowed, as though deep in thought, his left hand grasping the lapel of his jacket.

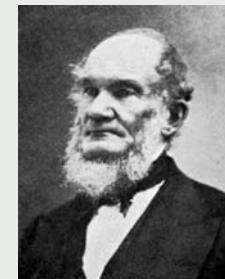


The sculpture was created in Cornish, New Hampshire, where Saint-Gaudens came to summer in 1885 with his wife Augusta. He was invited there by his friend Charles C. Beaman, who promised him many “Lincoln-shaped men” in the area to use as models. Such a man was found in Langdon Morse, of Windsor, Vermont, who was the same height and build as Lincoln and who modeled for the figure.

Architect, Stanford White, of the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White, designed the monument’s base. He added a long, curving exedra bench to encourage visitors to sit and enjoy the statue and setting. This was one of 20 such artistic collaborations between White and Saint-Gaudens who also became close friends.



Stanford White  
(1853-1906)



Langdon Morse

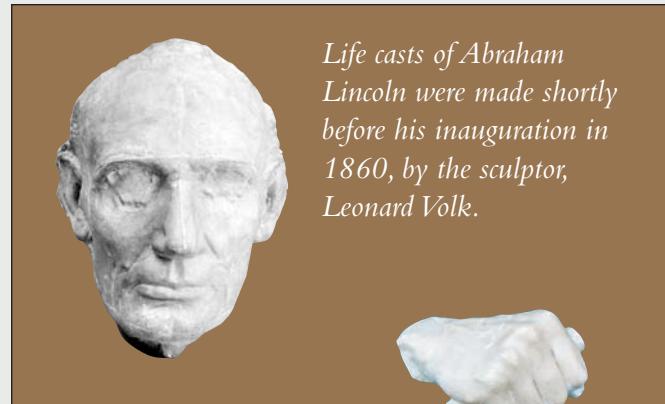


The monument was cast in bronze by the Henry-Bonnard Bronze Company in New York, and dedicated on October 22, 1887, to a large crowd. Lincoln’s son, Robert, considered this the best sculpture of his father of the many that were done.

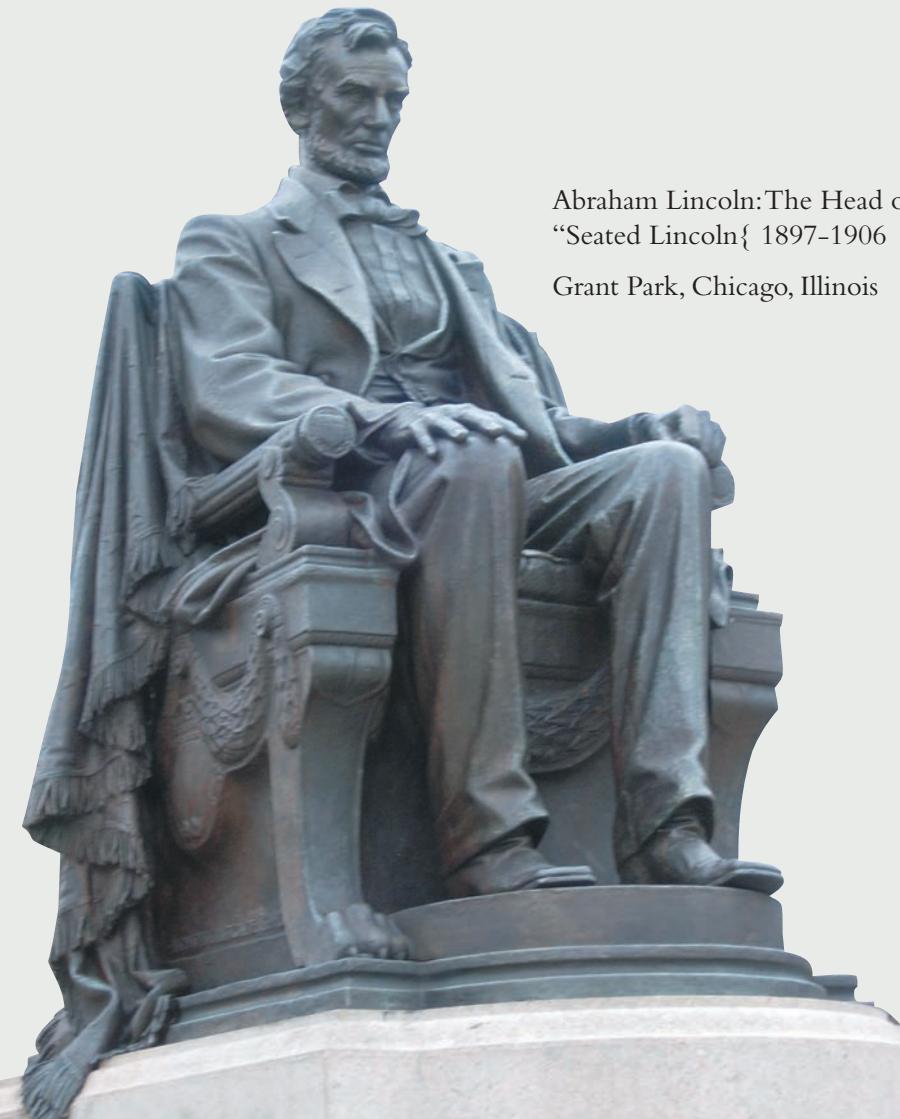
After Saint-Gaudens’ death, his wife authorized an edition of bronze reductions of the complete work. These are found in public institutions around the country. Full-size casts of the statue were later installed in London, England, Mexico City, Cambridge, Massachusetts and Hollywood Hills, California. Modern casts of the monument’s head are also frequently given to dignitaries, including the United States president. The monument had an additional legacy. The image of Lincoln used for the commemorative stamp of 1909, was drawn from the head of this statue.



Unveiling of the Standing Lincoln, October 1890



*Life casts of Abraham Lincoln were made shortly before his inauguration in 1860, by the sculptor, Leonard Volk.*



Abraham Lincoln: The Head of State  
“Seated Lincoln” 1897-1906

Grant Park, Chicago, Illinois



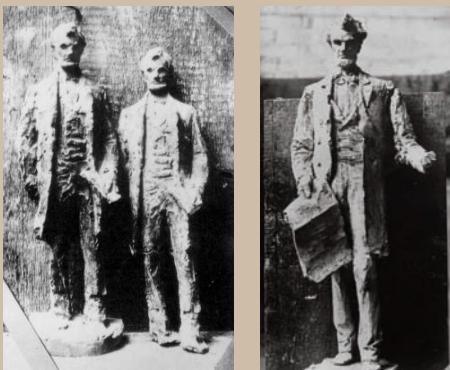
*Augustus Saint-Gaudens at the Little Studio, Cornish, N.H. 1906*

#### ABRAHAM LINCOLN: THE HEAD OF STATE

Completed at the end of Saint-Gaudens' life, his second Lincoln sculpture depicts the 16th President in a pose traditionally reserved for kings and emperors. The massive chair, draped with an American flag, represents the strength of the country, and the seated pose, with left hand on the armrest and right on the knee, is inspired by ancient images of a ruler sitting in judgment as lawgiver to the people. While the *Standing Lincoln* concentrated on the President's human quality, this shows him in a more formal pose. Another local man, Amos Bixby, also of the same physical stature as Lincoln, posed for this figure.

The statue was almost complete when it was destroyed in the 1904 studio fire. As Saint-Gaudens was now suffering from cancer which limited his work, the figure was recreated with the help of sculpture assistants, Henry Hering and Elsie Ward. The bronze was cast in 1906 by the Roman Bronze Foundry in New York City. The site and base were initially designed by Stanford White and finished by his son, Laurence White. The nine-foot-tall figure, however, was not unveiled until May 31, 1926.

## The Making of the Lincoln Statues



Preliminary clay sketches for the figure, with adaptation of pose and stance, 1885.

Both the Standing and Seated Lincoln statues were created in the sculptor's studios in Cornish, New Hampshire. The first was in a studio converted from an old hay barn. The second, was begun in the "Large Studio" which burned in 1904, and then completed in its replacement, the *Studio of the Caryatids* built in 1905. That building was also lost to fire in 1944.

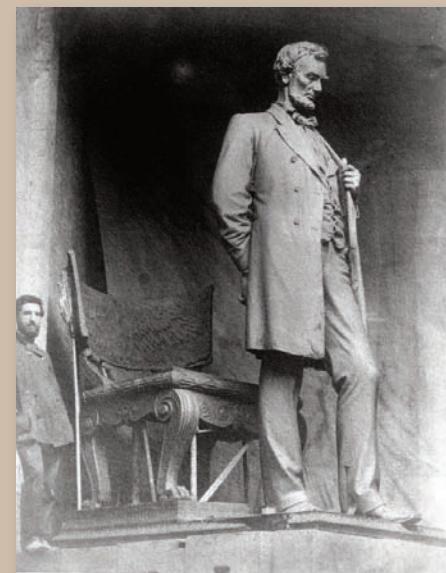
Saint-Gaudens was exacting in his work and always strove for perfection. As with most of his sculptures, he first made small, clay sketches in various poses as he contemplated the composition. Once he chose the final design, he hired a model. The model first dressed in a suit accurately tailored to replicate Lincoln's. So meticulous was the sculptor, that he even had the man walk around the property for a while so that the clothing acquired the correct wrinkles. Then, photos were taken of the model from many angles. Next, the sculpting began, with a nude figure in clay being made first, and then the clothing added. This helped ensure that the

figure's proportions would be correct. For the president's face and hands, Saint-Gaudens was able to work from actual life casts of Lincoln made in 1860.

Saint-Gaudens was always concerned about how a public sculpture would appear in a particular setting. To see how the "Seated Lincoln," would relate to its surroundings, a sketch of the sculpture was set up outside the studio, and large photo enlargements showing the surrounding scenery of the Chicago site, were placed around the piece.

Once the clay figure was finished, it was cast in plaster. The more durable plaster figure is then sent to a foundry to be cast in bronze.

Afterwards, the bronze is patinated to the color and finish desired by the sculptor.



Augustus Saint-Gaudens with finish clay model of Lincoln, 1886

## Augustus Saint-Gaudens

Augustus Saint-Gaudens was born March 1, 1848, in Dublin, Ireland, to Bernard Saint-Gaudens, a French shoemaker, and his Irish wife, Mary McGuiness. Six months later, the family emigrated to New York City where Augustus grew up.

After completing school at age 13, Augustus was apprenticed for six years to a cameo cutter. At the end of his apprenticeship, Saint-Gaudens set his mind at becoming a sculptor and traveled to France, to study sculpture at the École des Beaux-Arts. He later spent five years in Rome, Italy, where he started to get commissions, and where he also met Augusta Homer, of Roxbury, Massachusetts, who would become his wife.



Saint-Gaudens returned to America in 1875 and the following year received his first major commission, a monument to Civil war Admiral, David Glasgow Farragut. Unveiled in Manhattan in 1881, the work was a great success. Saint-Gaudens' fame grew and many other commissions soon followed, including his first monument to Abraham Lincoln.



During the next 25 years, Augustus completed over 150 artworks, including other renown public monuments, such as the *General William T. Sherman Monument* in New York and the *Shaw Memorial* in Boston. With public monuments, Saint-Gaudens pioneered the integration of architecture, landscape design, and monumental sculpture,



collaborating with leading architects like Stanford White, to create unique settings for his works. Augustus was also a master of relief, the most difficult form of sculpture. One of his lasting legacies was design of the 1907 United States gold coins at the request of Theodore Roosevelt. Saint-Gaudens became the first sculptor to design an American coin, and his twenty-dollar gold piece is considered America's most beautiful coin to this day.

*In 1965, Saint-Gaudens home and studios became the first site in the National Park Service to commemorate a visual artist.*

*The park remains the only National Park site in New Hampshire.*

*The park is open daily from Memorial Day weekend through the end of October and exhibits over 100 of Saint-Gaudens works.*



*Little Studio and Aspet, home of Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Photo: Paul Sanderson*

Augustus Saint-Gaudens

## Other National Park Service Sites Associated with Abraham Lincoln

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Hodgenville, Kentucky

[www.nps.gov/abli](http://www.nps.gov/abli)

### LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Lincoln City, Indiana

[www.nps.gov/libo](http://www.nps.gov/libo)

### LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Springfield, Illinois

[www.nps.gov/liho](http://www.nps.gov/liho)

### GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

[www.nps.gov/getc](http://www.nps.gov/getc)

### FORD'S THEATRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Washington, D.C.

[www.nps.gov/foth](http://www.nps.gov/foth)

### LINCOLN MEMORIAL

Washington, D.C.

[www.nps.gov/linc](http://www.nps.gov/linc)

## Additional Information

### NATIONAL ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

<http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/>

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

[http://www.nps.gov/pub\\_aff/lincoln200/](http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/lincoln200/)



# Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site



**Abraham Lincoln: The Head of State**  
**“Seated Lincoln” 1906**

Grant Park, Chicago, Illinois

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site  
139 Saint-Gaudens Road • Cornish, NH 03745  
603-675-2175 • [www.nps.gov/saga](http://www.nps.gov/saga)